Mr. Les Payne, national editor
Newsday
Long Island, NY 11747

8/14/94

Dear Les,

As daily I grow weaker and clearly have les time I face a character assassination in a format that precludes refutation, in a mass paperback reprint. However, in my reporting days of the dim past and of a different world in which news was not show biz and what was printed and how it was angled if printed were not all policy decisions, there could have been an attractivd "feature" of "human interest" content in it.

(My successful heart operation of 1989 weakened me and the most recent medical report is that I have no functioning artery in either leg. And I'm 81.)

One of the problems I face is that when Random House publisher Gerald Posner's knowingly mistitled Case Closed with a big push there was a journalistic bandwagon to promote this newest endorsement of the official JFK assassination mythology. Newsday led the pack in what I have copies of, and I've quite a few from coast to coast. This presents a problem, of course, because no paper wants to boast "we were had" or what is closer to the reality, We Did It To Ourselves. Nobody did any checking. Your Jack Sirica outdid himself in seeking endorsements for his ecstasies about Posner and his obvious ffaud of a book.

For the record for history, in the form of a book, I made a lengthy and factual record with the title "Hoax: the Gerald Posner/Random House/CIA JFK Assassination Exploitation." About 20-25% of it appeared as Case Open about four months ago. Without a single ad or any promotion it is selling well as a small quality paperback from the little I've heard from the publisher and from the considerable volume of letters and phone calls to me.

Not a peep from Posner or Random House or any lawyer speaking for them.

While the book was butchered in publishing it is solid and Posner can't say a word.

Instead I've been told he ~~had~~ added for the coming Anchor paperback reprint a lengthy personal attack on me.

How solid is what I did?

Posner and Random House could not refute a word and did not try even when they made it relevant in a lawsuit!

A lawyer you met briefly when he was with CBS News prepared an affidavit based entirely on Case Open as a response to what was not relevant in ~~part~~ that lawsuit, RH's lawyers giving the judge a copy of the book and a fat file or rave reviews. The sole issue in that lawsuit is an ad in the Times promoting the book with the unauthorized use of pictures under the FBI-like black head "WANTED." That, the plaintiff claims, violated NY law.

You met the lawyer then with CBS, the night we flew back from nashville together in 1976. He met me at LaGuardia when we landed.

The major media, as always, is behind the official assassination mythology. In addititon there are all those raves readers may remember. Plus the fact that Case Open does not exist to it. Not review, not a mention.

The kind of story that would have been possible in my day of the so distant past is that a young can man who made Clifford Irving look like a kid amateur biker is running away from an old man who can, at his best and slowly, walk up to five minutes with the help of a cane, rather than face him in his unrefuted criticism and exposure of that big con job.

Even though he is in that exposure referred to as a shyster, a plagiarist who used the faulted work of a child as his own, and among other things, a man who has trouble telling the truth even by accident. (In that affidavit to which no response was made in court, too.)

You have no idea how thoroughly I demolished his book and him, ever so much more so in what was cut to make a smaller and cheaper book of it. ($11.95) My history professor friends who have the full ms say they recall nothing like it, ever, in history.

But there is no way in which I can refute the shystering character assassination in the coming Doubleday/Anchor reprint. To many it will undermine all the work I've done on the JFK and King assassinations. The reason the CIA gave Posner unprecedented help for the book and for its promotions.

Posner used a claimed 200 interviews the papers loved to boast about for they were only a means of circumventing the existing official evidence. Two of those he claims he interviewed deny he did. And one is so dependable he distributed propaganda calling the conservative Congressman from Louisiana Hale Boggs a Communist! No less dependable is the source he misquotes, his source who swore to the exact opposite before the Warren Commission, his basis for saying that Oswald was a born assassin waitng for his moment in history (Posner quoted both sides of that page), the shrink who examined Oswald as a boy truant- and who got his sex free from his women patients- they paid him for it- until a New York court awarded one $350,000.00.

I've notified Doubleday, with attachments, but they have a contract and they'll publish it anyway. They know through Posner that at my age and in the fragile state of my health I cannot sue.

If you'd like a copy of the book I'll send it. Other than getting it in a store it will be faster to phone Carroll & Graf, 260 Fifth Ave.

Since you were here I've accumulated about a third of a million pages of once-secret official records through a dozen FOIA lawsuits some of which were precedental and one of which was cited in the Congressional debates as requiring the amending of the Act to make FBI, CIA and similar records FOIA accessible. They will all be a free public archive at the local college which for the work we've done, not for that gift made years ago, awarded Lil and me honorary doctorates in Humane letters a year ago as part of its centenniel celebration. It is a fine school with a policy and practise on minorities

I think it will not be easy to duplicate. It extends to the student body which last year elected a black woman from India or Ceylon as presient of the student body.

Remember Leda and Eddie? Their niece was the president of her class. (If you did not meet them Leda is a Hungarian woman who married black Eddie Orem. He rescued her during World War II when she was a girl wandering for two years through the war-torn areas.)

Beginning when it was clear that from other than age (I'm 81 now) my time was limited I decided to spend what time remains for me seeking to perfect the record of history to the degree possible for me. Aside from lengthy reminiscinces as substitutes for oral histories the president of Hood wanted but did not give any faculty members time for I've written more than 3/4 million words on the assassinations. If you want an academic assessment, ask Wrone. He has copies for his archive.

The local archives- and what a sources it will be for theses - will be under a history professor who is a dear Friend, Dr. Gerald McKnight. Several years ago I got him interested in using my King records. He did several good professorial articles on the FBI's domestic intelligence actigities against blacks in Memphis, published in The South ~~XXXX~~ Atlantic Quaterly. I also got him interested in doing a book on the FBI's intrusions into King's last project, The Poor Peoples Campaign. He did a fine job to which he is now adding some exciting new material I've given him along with some oral interviews he got at Memphis State.

A bright young woman is now doing an honors paper on the general topic, if made into a book, could be Control: the FBI's Game. The copies she is making here will be the research for such a book and will be on deposit at Hood when she is finished. Hers is a project for a year.

Back to Posner, the complete fraud no reporter or reviewer ever checked at all, including at least three of yours, He lied even in referring to himself as "a Wall Street lawyer." He spent two years on less on what does not even require a law degree, the scut work of going over discovery material in an IBM lawsuit. I have a friend who did that in a ~~WXXX~~ Westinghouse case fresh for her bachelor's degree. Nobody checked him. Lexis shows he never filed a single case in court.

I've rambled a bit. Hope you are all well and that you can see your way clear to do something.

Best,

Harold